

A new Palæarctic species of *Xenopsylla* (with plate).

By the Hon. N. CHARLES ROTHSCHILD, M.A.

Among some *Siphonaptera* lately received from Asiatic Russia there are two ♂♂ of a species of *Xenopsylla* which are remarkable for the development of the posterior abdominal segments and the bristles of the legs, particularly on the hind tarsus.

Xenopsylla hirtipes, spec. nov. (Pl. xx., figs. 1-2.) ♂. The species is nearest to *X. gerbilli*, Wagn. (1903). The episternum of the metathorax is separated from the sternum, and the hind femur has no sub-basal ventral tooth, in which characteristics *X. hirtipes* agrees with *X. gerbilli*, *X. mycerini*, *X. ramesis* and some other *Xenopsylla* [cf. *Parasitology*, i., p. 58 (1908)]. In both *X. gerbilli* and *X. hirtipes*, the bristles placed at the apices of the tibia and first and second tarsal segments of the hind leg are very long, but, in addition, in *X. hirtipes* the bristles situated at the posterior edge of the first hind tarsal segment are also very long and strong, as shown in fig. 1, this not being the case in any other known species of *Xenopsylla*. Further, the apical margin of the seventh abdominal tergite is dorsally strongly produced in *X. hirtipes* (fig. 2, vii. t.), and the eighth sternite (viii. st.) bears only one ventral bristle on each side in *X. hirtipes*, while it has three in *X. gerbilli*. The clasping organs agree more closely with those of *X. gerbilli* than with those of any other species, but are nevertheless easily distinguished by the upper lobe p^1 , being broader and bearing a large number of bristles. Two ♂♂ from near Djarkent, Semitchenskoi, E. Turkistan, October 5th, 1912, off *Allactaga elater*, and November 25th, 1912, off *Meriones tamaricinus*.

A Swiss Eldorado.

By P. A. H. MUSCHAMP, B.A., F.E.S.

It may seem injudicious to advertise Eldorado when one has found it, and no doubt it would be so were it not that nature has kindly taken matters into her own hands and put about fifty per cent. of this happy hunting ground well out of the reach of any but the rash fool, who is willing to risk his life in order to bring home with him a huge bunch of edelweiss, rather than rest content with a modest nosegay of these enticing flowers. Let who will come, many terraces will ever remain where the winged beauties may mate unmolested by the man with the net, and where their progeny may ever feed unobserved of all save the satanic black salamander and the predacious Hymenoptera. Here indeed is a "campus et apricis statio gratissima papilionibus." Since 1901 I have spent every summer holiday wandering about over hill and dale in every canton of Switzerland and have never found its equal. In order to get to this Eldorado you need but to beg the beneficent distributor of holiday joys to accord you sundry slips of paper giving you the right to travel by the way of Zürich to the quaint little town of Glarus, put your traps and yourself into a carriage belonging to the little hotel at Klönthal and have yourself conveyed thither, unless you prefer to economise, in which case you make use of *shanks his mare* and send up your traps by themselves. This little hotel is situated on a lakelet that is now double the size it was five

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